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cer, formerly connected with the Colonial Hospital, Port of Spain, some hopes are gathered that the fresh juice of the *Cin-eraria maritima*, Willd., may be found to possess the power of causing the absorption of cataract. H. H. R.

Native Flowers of New Zealand illustrated in colors. By Mrs. Charles Hetley. Although not intended as a botanical contribution, the drawings reproduced in these portfolios are true to nature, and include several plants new to the flora of New Zealand. The work has been carefully supervised by native botanists and each plate is accompanied by a short description; it was also intended to give a botanical dissection of the flower in each, but for some reason these have been omitted. Three parts have already appeared, each containing twelve chromolithographs, large quarto size, at the price of £3 3s. If a sufficient number of copies are sold the work will be continued. A specimen of the plates will be forwarded free on application to the publishers, Sampson Low, Marston & Co., London.

Review of Foreign Literature.

An attempt to answer the question, whether the freezing of the seed influences the development of the plant afterward developing from the same. By L. Kny. (Sitzungsbericht der Gesellschaft Naturforschende Freunde zu Berlin vom 15 Novemb. 1887.)

One of the most marked characteristics of the vegetation of cold climates is the extreme rapidity of its growth, both vegetative and reproductive. Grisebach says that the polar willow, when its shoots are only about one inch long, begins to blossom, and this weeks before the sap begins its upward streaming. Christ says, however much the climate of the Alps excites rapid development of vegetation, plants growing lower down on the sides of the Alps show the same propensity, but with this difference: those of any species above blossom earlier than those of the same species growing lower down, although the latter develop their leaves earlier. He considers this due to increased insolation. Several other authors refer this, not to any direct influence during the time of development, but rather to the influence of extreme cold on perennial plants during the winter

season. The writer of the article entitled as above gives the names of several authors, the results of whose experiments go to prove that those plants exposed through natural causes to a low temperature during their period of rest, as well as those artificially exposed, being placed on ice, when given again the conditions of growth develop earlier and faster than others whose winter rest has been passed under a higher temperature. Similar experiments have been tried with seeds, proving that seeds of certain grains grown in an extreme northern climate, when planted in warmer climates, develop seeds again in less time than those grown in the same warmer climate. These results, the author thinks, do not imply with any degree of certainty that the climate is the only factor concerned. The seed of the colder climate may have acquired certain characteristics from a long series of generations, instead of the single seed being affected by the climate of the winter it has passed through. Other experiments touching this latter part of the question have been carried on in St. Petersburg also by Haberlandt. Seeds were exposed to cold after having been swollen by absorption of water. After being exposed some time to a temperature of $17^{\circ}5$. (Celsius) they were allowed to thaw very gradually. Plants obtained from seeds so treated, all other conditions being equal, produced blossoms a few days earlier than those not so treated. The author tried similar experiments with somewhat different results. Seeds from eight different species were taken, divided in three sets, each set treated differently from the other two in respect to the degree of cold they were exposed to during their winter rest. They were not swollen by placing in water, but were simply kept during the winter in rooms of different temperature: one set in a room of about 19° or 20° ; another where it varied from 1° to 24° ; the third exposed to all the rigors of a Berlin winter, not, however, allowed to be in contact with snow or ice. These seeds, in the spring, were given the same conditions. The plants obtained from the three sets showed no difference, either in time of germinating or of flower and seed producing. The question is one of strong practical interest as well as scientific. In both directions it seems well worth taking up, especially as so little comparatively has been done with it.

E. L. G.